

Application No.: 09/864,055  
Docket No.: JIAN0094-C1-CIP

**In The Claims:**

Claim 1. (original) A bonding pad structure, comprising:

a copper layer;

a passivation layer over the copper layer having a pad window to expose a portion of the copper layer;

a barrier layer conformal to a profile of the pad window; and

an aluminum pad located in the pad window.

Claim 2. (original) The bonding pad structure of claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is selected from the group consisting of aluminum (Al), tantalum (Ta), tantalum nitride (Ta<sub>3</sub>N<sub>5</sub>), titanium nitride (TiN), and tungsten nitride (WN), mixtures thereof, combinations thereof and alloys thereof.

Claim 3. (original) The bonding pad structure of claim 1, wherein the aluminum pad is an aluminum, aluminum alloy or aluminum dominated layer.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A bonding pad structure, comprising:

a copper layer;

a passivation layer over the copper layer having a pad window to expose a portion of the copper layer;

a barrier layer conformal to a profile of the pad window and extended along a portion of the surface of the passivation layer from the pad window; and

an aluminum pad located over the barrier layer.

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Claim 5. (original). The bonding pad structure of claim 4, wherein the barrier layer is selected from the group consisting of aluminum (Al), tantalum (Ta), tantalum nitride (TaN), titanium nitride (TiN), and tungsten nitride (WN), mixtures thereof, combinations thereof and alloys thereof.

Claim 6. (original). The bonding pad structure of claim 4, wherein the aluminum pad is an aluminum, aluminum alloy or aluminum dominated layer.